Sale of MiG-29 to India

259. DR. VIJAY MALLYA:
SHRI LALIT SURI:

Will the MInister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Russia, during Prime Minister's visit to that country in May, 2005, offered the sale of MiG-29 to India and also to assist India in the manufacture of that aircraft in India;

(b) if so, the details of the two offers; and

(c) by when the manufacture of MiG-29 in India would commence and by when India's dependence on Russia for its manufacture would end?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Patriot Missile

†260. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether America have committed to India to provide Patriot Advance Capability 3 Anti Missile Defence System for self defence and if so, how it will affect the defence preparedness by India;

(b) whether America have decided to provide F-16 Fighter Aircraft to India and whether India have accepted the said offer and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it is a fact that a new era has began as a result of Indo-American defence procurement agreements and how much improvement has taken place in our country's military power thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) During Raksha Mantri, Shri Pranab Mukherjee's recent visit to the United States of America the US Department of Defence made a verbal offer to provide a technical briefing on the Patriot Advanced Capability (PAC)-3 anti-missle defence system to India. This is not a formal offer to sell the system. No date has been fixed for the briefing as yet. Its utility for India's defence preparedeness has still to be assessed.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.